

Senate File 2299 - Introduced

SENATE FILE 2299

BY COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS

(SUCCESSOR TO SSB 3128)

A BILL FOR

1 An Act relating to the early childhood Iowa initiative.

2 BE IT ENACTED BY THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF IOWA:

1 Section 1. Section 135.106, subsection 4, Code 2016, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 4. It is the intent of the general assembly that priority
4 for ~~home-visitation~~ family support funding be given to
5 approaches using evidence-based or promising models for ~~home~~
6 ~~visitation~~ family support.

7 Sec. 2. Section 256I.3, subsection 2, paragraph b, Code
8 2016, is amended to read as follows:

9 b. The governor's appointees shall ~~be selected from~~
10 ~~individuals nominated by area boards. The nominations shall~~
11 reflect the range of interests represented on the area boards
12 so that the governor is able to appoint one or more members
13 each for early care, education, health, human services,
14 business, faith, and public interests. At least one of the
15 citizen members shall be a service consumer or the parent of a
16 service consumer. The term of office of the citizen members
17 is three years. A citizen member vacancy on the board shall be
18 filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the
19 balance of the unexpired term.

20 Sec. 3. Section 256I.4, subsection 8, Code 2016, is amended
21 to read as follows:

22 8. Develop and implement a ~~levels of excellence rating~~
23 ~~system for use with the state board's~~ designation process for
24 area boards. Allow for flexibility and creativity of area
25 boards in implementing area board responsibilities and provide
26 authority for the area boards to support the communities in the
27 areas served. ~~The levels of excellence rating system shall~~
28 ~~utilize a tiered approach for recognizing the performance of~~
29 ~~an area board. The system shall provide for action to address~~
30 poor performing areas as well as higher performing areas.
31 ~~Subject to the funding requirements and other requirements~~
32 ~~established in law, if an area board achieves the highest~~
33 ~~rating level, the state board may allow special flexibility~~
34 ~~provisions in regard to the funding appropriated or allocated~~
35 ~~for that area board. The state board shall determine how often~~

1 area boards are reviewed under the system.

2 Sec. 4. Section 256I.7, subsection 1, paragraph a, Code
3 2016, is amended to read as follows:

4 a. The early childhood Iowa functions for an area shall be
5 performed under the authority of an early childhood Iowa area
6 board. The members of an area board shall be elected officials
7 or members of the public who are not employed by a provider of
8 services to or for the area board. In addition, the membership
9 of an area board shall include representation from ~~early~~
10 ~~care,~~ education, health, human services, business, and faith
11 interests, and at least one parent, grandparent, or guardian of
12 a child from zero through age five. However, not more than one
13 member shall represent the same entity or interest.

14 Sec. 5. Section 256I.8, subsection 1, paragraph c, Code
15 2016, is amended to read as follows:

16 c. Develop a comprehensive community plan for providing
17 services for children from zero through age five. At a
18 minimum, the plan shall do all of the following:

19 (1) Describe community and area needs for children from zero
20 through age five as identified through ongoing assessments.

21 (2) Describe the current and desired ~~levels of community~~
22 ~~and area coordination of services for children from zero~~
23 ~~through age five, including the involvement and specific~~
24 ~~responsibilities of all related organizations and entities~~
25 collaborative relationships between community providers.

26 (3) Identify ~~all~~ federal, state, local, and private funding
27 sources including funding estimates available in the early
28 childhood Iowa area that will be used to provide services to
29 children from zero through age five.

30 (4) Describe how funding sources will be used
31 collaboratively ~~and the degree to which the sources can~~
32 ~~be combined to provide necessary services to~~ support young
33 children and their families.

34 (5) Identify the desired results and the community-wide
35 indicators the area board expects to address through

1 implementation of the comprehensive community plan. The plan
2 shall identify community-specific, quantifiable performance
3 measures to be reported in the area board's annual report and
4 integration with the strategic plan adopted by the state board.

5 ~~(6) Describe the current status of support services to~~
6 ~~prevent the spread of infectious diseases, prevent child~~
7 ~~injuries, develop health emergency protocols, help with~~
8 ~~medication, and care for children with special health needs~~
9 ~~that are being provided to child care facilities registered or~~
10 ~~licensed under chapter 237A within the early childhood Iowa~~
11 ~~area.~~

12 Sec. 6. Section 256I.9, subsection 3, paragraphs b and d,
13 Code 2016, are amended to read as follows:

14 b. (1) Family support services and parent education
15 programs promoted to parents of children from zero through
16 age five. Family support services shall include but are not
17 limited to home visitation and parent education. ~~Of the state~~
18 ~~funding that an area board designates for family support~~
19 ~~programs, at least sixty percent shall be committed to programs~~
20 ~~with a home visitation component.~~

21 (2) It is the intent of the general assembly that priority
22 for ~~home visitation~~ family support program funding be given
23 to programs using evidence-based or promising models for ~~home~~
24 ~~visitation~~ family support.

25 d. Services to improve the quality and availability of
26 all types of child care. ~~The services may include but are~~
27 ~~not limited to making nurse consultants available to support~~
28 ~~quality improvement.~~

29 Sec. 7. Section 256I.9, subsection 4, paragraphs a, b, and
30 c, Code 2016, are amended to read as follows:

31 a. A school ready children grant shall be awarded to an
32 area board annually, as funding is available. Receipt of
33 continued funding is subject to submission of the required
34 annual report data and the state board's determination that
35 the area board is ~~measuring~~ making progress, through the use

1 of specific, quantifiable performance measures and locally
 2 developed community-wide indicators, ~~developed by the state~~
 3 ~~board with input from area boards, progress toward and is~~
 4 achieving the desired results and other results identified
 5 in the community plan. Each area board shall participate in
 6 the ~~levels of excellence rating system~~ designation process to
 7 measure the area's success. If the use of performance measures
 8 and community-wide indicators does not show that an area board
 9 has made progress toward achieving the results identified in
 10 the community plan, the state board ~~shall~~ may require a plan of
 11 corrective action, provide technical assistance, withhold any
 12 increase in funding, or withdraw grant funding.

13 **b.** The state board shall distribute school ready children
 14 grant moneys to area boards with approved comprehensive
 15 community plans based upon a determination of an early
 16 childhood Iowa area's ~~readiness to effectively utilize the~~
 17 ~~grant moneys~~ designation. ~~The grant moneys shall be adjusted~~
 18 ~~for other federal and state grant moneys to be received by the~~
 19 ~~area for services to children from zero through age five.~~

20 **c.** An area board's ~~readiness~~ designation shall be determined
 21 by evidence of successful collaboration among public and
 22 private early care, education, health, and human services
 23 interests in the area or a documented program design that
 24 supports a strong likelihood of a successful collaboration
 25 between these interests. ~~Other criteria which may be used by~~
 26 ~~the state board to determine readiness and funding amounts for~~
 27 ~~an area include one or more of the following:~~

28 ~~(1) The levels of excellence rating received by the area.~~

29 ~~(2) Evidence of the area's capacity to successfully~~
 30 ~~implement the services in the area's community plan.~~

31 ~~(3) Local public and private funding and other resources~~
 32 ~~committed to implementation of the community plan.~~

33 ~~(4) The adequacy of plans for commitment of local funding~~
 34 ~~and other resources for implementation of the community plan.~~

35 Sec. 8. Section 256I.10, subsection 3, Code 2016, is amended

1 by striking the subsection.

2 Sec. 9. Section 256I.11, subsection 4, paragraph b, Code
3 2016, is amended by striking the paragraph.

4 Sec. 10. Section 256I.13, Code 2016, is amended to read as
5 follows:

6 **256I.13 ~~Home-visitation~~ Family support program — funding**
7 **intent.**

8 1. In order to implement the legislative intent stated in
9 sections [135.106](#) and [256I.9](#), that priority for ~~home-visitation~~
10 family support program funding be given to programs using
11 evidence-based or promising models for ~~home-visitation~~ family
12 support, it is the intent of the general assembly to ~~phase in~~
13 ~~the funding priority as follows:~~

14 ~~a. By July 1, 2013, twenty-five percent of state funds~~
15 ~~expended for home visiting programs are for evidence-based or~~
16 ~~promising program models.~~

17 ~~b. By July 1, 2014, fifty percent of state funds expended~~
18 ~~for home visiting programs are for evidence-based or promising~~
19 ~~program models.~~

20 ~~c. By July 1, 2015, seventy-five percent of state funds~~
21 ~~expended for home visiting programs are for evidence-based or~~
22 ~~promising program models.~~

23 ~~d. By that by July 1, 2016, ninety percent of state~~
24 ~~funds expended for home-visiting~~ family support programs
25 ~~are~~ shall be used for evidence-based or promising program
26 models. The remaining ten percent of funds may be used for
27 innovative program models that do not yet meet the definition
28 of evidence-based or promising programs.

29 2. For the purposes of [this section](#), unless the context
30 otherwise requires or unless otherwise provided under federal
31 law:

32 *a. "Evidence-based program"* means a program that is based
33 on scientific evidence demonstrating that the program model
34 is effective. An evidence-based program shall be reviewed
35 on site and compared to program model standards by the model

1 developer or the developer's designee at least every five years
2 to ensure that the program continues to maintain fidelity
3 with the program model. The program model shall have had
4 demonstrated significant and sustained positive outcomes in an
5 evaluation utilizing a well-designed and rigorous randomized
6 controlled research design or a quasi-experimental research
7 design, and the evaluation results shall have been published in
8 a peer-reviewed journal.

9 *b. "Family support programs"* includes group-based parent
10 education or home visiting programs that are designed to
11 strengthen protective factors, including parenting skills,
12 increasing parental knowledge of child development, and
13 increasing family functioning and problem solving skills. A
14 family support program may be used as an early intervention
15 strategy to improve birth outcomes, parental knowledge, family
16 economic success, the home learning environment, family and
17 child involvement with others, and coordination with other
18 community resources. A family support program may have a
19 specific focus on preventing child maltreatment or ensuring
20 children are safe, healthy, and ready to succeed in school.

21 *c. "Promising program"* means a program that meets all of the
22 following requirements:

23 (1) The program conforms to a clear, consistent family
24 support model that has been in existence for at least three
25 years.

26 (2) The program is grounded in relevant empirically based
27 knowledge.

28 (3) The program is linked to program-determined outcomes.

29 (4) The program is associated with a national or state
30 organization that either has comprehensive program standards
31 that ensure high-quality service delivery and continuous
32 program quality improvement or the program model has
33 demonstrated through the program's benchmark outcomes that the
34 program has achieved significant positive outcomes equivalent
35 to those achieved by program models with published significant

1 and sustained results in a peer-reviewed journal.

2 (5) The program has been awarded the Iowa family support
3 credential and has been reviewed on site at least every five
4 years to ensure the program's adherence to the Iowa family
5 support standards approved by the state board or a comparable
6 set of standards. The on-site review is completed by an
7 independent review team that is not associated with the program
8 or the organization administering the program.

9 3. a. The data reporting requirements adopted by the
10 state board pursuant to [section 256I.4](#) for the family support
11 programs targeted to families expecting a child or with newborn
12 and infant children through age five and funded through the
13 state board shall require the programs to participate in a
14 state-administered internet-based data collection system. ~~The~~
15 ~~data reporting requirements shall be developed in a manner to~~
16 ~~provide for compatibility with local data collection systems.~~
17 The state board's annual report submitted each January to
18 the governor and general assembly under [section 256I.4](#) shall
19 include family support program outcomes ~~beginning with the~~
20 ~~January 2015 report.~~

21 b. The data on families served that is collected by the
22 family support programs funded through the early childhood
23 Iowa initiative shall include but is not limited to basic
24 demographic information, services received, funding utilized,
25 and program outcomes for the children and families served. The
26 state board shall adopt performance benchmarks for the family
27 support programs and shall revise the Iowa family support
28 credential to incorporate the performance benchmarks on or
29 before January 1, 2014.

30 c. The state board shall identify minimum competency
31 standards for the employees and supervisors of family support
32 programs funded through the early childhood Iowa initiative.
33 ~~The state board shall submit recommendations concerning the~~
34 ~~standards to the governor and general assembly on or before~~
35 ~~January 1, 2014.~~

1 d. The state board shall adopt criminal and child abuse
2 record check requirements for the employees and supervisors of
3 family support programs funded through the early childhood Iowa
4 initiative.

e. The state board shall develop a plan to implement a coordinated intake and referral process for publicly funded family support programs in order to engage the families expecting a child or with newborn and infant children through age five in all communities in the state by July 1, 2015.

10	EXPLANATION
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11 The inclusion of this explanation does not constitute agreement with
12 the explanation's substance by the members of the general assembly.

13 This bill relates to the early childhood Iowa initiative.

14 The early childhood Iowa (ECI) initiative was created
15 to empower individuals, communities, and the state to work
16 together to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of
17 early care, education, health, and human services systems
18 provided to families with children from zero through age five.
19 The ECI state board, ECI area boards, and other state and
20 local government agencies provide support, leadership, and
21 facilitation of the growth of individual, community, and state
22 responsibility in addressing the desired results for improving
23 the quality of life in this state for young children and their
24 families.

25 The bill eliminates the requirement that the governor's
26 citizen member appointees to the state board be selected from
27 individuals nominated by ECI area boards and removes references
28 relating to a levels of excellence rating system to be used in
29 the state board's designation process for area boards.

30 The bill eliminates the requirement that the composition
31 of an ECI area board include representation from early care
32 interests. "Early care" means the programs, services, support,
33 or other assistance made available to a parent or other person
34 who is involved with addressing the health and education
35 needs of a child from zero through age five. The bill also

1 makes changes to the duties of an ECI board relating to the
2 development of a comprehensive community plan for children from
3 zero through age five.

4 The bill amends provisions relating to the school ready
5 children grant program. The bill eliminates the requirement
6 that at least 60 percent of state funding that an area board
7 designates for family support programs must be committed to
8 programs with a home visitation component and also eliminates
9 the option that child care services funded by a school ready
10 children grant may include nurse consultants.

11 The bill provides that once an ECI area board receives a
12 school ready children grant, receipt of continued funding by
13 the ECI area board is subject to submission of the required
14 annual report and the ECI state board's determination that
15 the ECI area board is making progress, through the use of
16 specific, quantifiable performance measures and locally
17 developed community-wide indicators, toward achieving the
18 desired results and other results identified in the community
19 plan. Each ECI area board is required to participate in the
20 designation process established by the ECI state board to
21 measure the ECI area's success. If the use of performance
22 measures and community-wide indicators does not show that an
23 ECI area board has made progress toward achieving the results
24 identified in the community plan, the state board may require a
25 corrective action plan, provide technical assistance, withhold
26 any increase in funding, or withdraw grant funding.

27 The bill eliminates the requirement that grant moneys
28 be adjusted for other federal and state grant moneys to be
29 received by the area for services to children from zero through
30 age five.

31 The bill provides that an ECI area board's designation shall
32 be determined by evidence of successful collaboration among
33 public and private early care, education, health, and human
34 services interests in the area or a documented program design
35 that supports a strong likelihood of a successful collaboration

1 between these interests.

2 The bill eliminates the requirement that the department of
3 management provide information to the ECI state board regarding
4 the extent and frequency of usage of the ECI internet site or
5 sites and that such information be included in the board's
6 annual report.

7 The bill eliminates the maximum funding amount an ECI area
8 is eligible to receive from the ECI programs grant account for
9 a fiscal year, determined by applying the area's percentage
10 of the state's average monthly family investment program
11 population in the preceding fiscal year to the total amount
12 credited to the account for the fiscal year.

13 References to "home visitation program" in Code chapter
14 256I are replaced with references to "family support program",
15 and a conforming Code change is made in Code section 135.106
16 (healthy families programs). The bill provides that it is the
17 intent of the legislature to give priority to family support
18 program funding using evidence-based or promising program
19 models, and in order to implement this legislative intent,
20 the bill provides that, by July 1, 2016, 90 percent of state
21 funds expended for family support programs shall be used for
22 evidence-based or promising program models.